

REAGAN CHOOSES BUSH

Ford Declines Vice Presidential Offer



PARTY'S CHOICE —A triumphant Ronald Reagan and wife Nancy appear before the convention after he was nominated for President.

Times photo by Tony Barnard

Day-Long Effort to Get Ex-President to Run Fails

By JACK NELSON

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DETROIT—Ronald Reagan selected former U.N. Ambassador George Bush to be his running mate early today after a hectic day-long effort failed to persuade former President Gerald R. Ford to join him on the Republican ticket.

Reagan's decision, made known shortly after he was nominated as the party's presidential candidate, stunned the Republican National Convention, which had reacted ecstatically to earlier reports that Ford had agreed to join the ticket.

Appearing triumphantly with his wife, Nancy, at the convention podium just after midnight, Reagan said Ford finally had concluded he would be of more value as a former President "campaigning his heart out, as he has pledged to do, and not as a member of the ticket."

Reagan said he had called Bush, who told him he "can enthusiastically support the platform across the board."

Opposition to Bush

Some of the more conservative delegates here have vehemently opposed the selection of Bush, a moderate whose support of the equal rights amendment and opposition to an anti-abortion constitutional amendment were at odds with planks in the platform adopted by the GOP convention.

However, Bush is expected to be overwhelmingly nominated by the Republicans tonight at the final ses-

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CHEERED -George Bush on the podium as he prepared to address Republican convention.

AP photo

sion of their 1980 convention.

An explanation as to why the Reagan-Ford ticket never materialized came from the Ford camp.

"The workability of it was what the decision turned on," a close Ford source said. "On matter of terms, it got down to what can he (Ford) do" in a Reagan administration. "That was the question."

The source said it was unfortunate that "we didn't have more time. It could have happened."

It was at 11:45 p.m. that Ford decided not to run, and he then walked

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REAGAN NAMES BUSH NO. 2 MAN ON REPUBLICAN TICKET

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down one flight of stairs to the Reagan suite to tell the Californian his decision.

Within minutes, Reagan settled on Bush—and started on his dramatic trip to the convention to unravel the mysteries of the whole situation.

Of the candidates who opposed Reagan in the primaries, Bush was by far the strongest, finishing second to the nominee overall and winning six primaries, including the key states of Michigan and Pennsylvania. Except for Ford, he was the overwhelming favorite of delegates here to join the ticket.

A nationwide survey by the Los Angeles Times Poll conducted June 29-July 3 showed Bush and Ford tied among voters as "the favorite choice for vice president on the Republican ticket."

Either would have brought to the ticket something Reagan lacked—voter strength in the East. Bush ran only slightly behind Ford as the choice for a running mate in the East. In this same region, the survey showed that Reagan was running third behind Carter and independent John B. Anderson—the only area of the country where Reagan was not leading.

Bush, a native of Milton, Mass., who now lives in Houston, Tex., should also help mitigate the age issue, which has been widely played up because Reagan, if elected, would be 70 shortly after inauguration. Bush is 56.

Reagan and his aides were locked in negotiations with Ford and his aides until shortly before Reagan's nomination.

Baffling Day

And the midnight announcement that Bush had been selected came only after a baffling day during which Ford indicated in television interviews that he was seriously considering running with Reagan if he could get adequate assurances that, if elected, his role as vice president would be greatly expanded beyond the traditional role.

Less than two hours before Ford said on evening newscasts that he was considering becoming Reagan's running mate, the former President told other journalists he would not accept the No. 2 spot under any circumstances.

But he wavered in that resolve as senators, governors and other influential Republicans trooped to his 70th-floor suite in the Detroit Plaza Hotel and urged him to run "for the good of the country."

Frantic Scramble

The almost frantic scramble to resolve the vice presidential question resulted in a tense situation that caused bruised feelings and temper outbursts.

The situation in Reagan's suite on the 60th floor of the Detroit Plaza Hotel was described as very tense as the convention convened Wednesday evening. A Reagan intimate said that tempers were short and Reagan staff members here engaged in heated debate about how far Reagan should go in meeting Ford's demands for an expanded vice presidential role.

In Bush's camp, where the former U.N. ambassador reportedly felt strung out and "antsy" over Reagan's long delay in selecting a running mate, the mood was even angrier. Bush staff members who watched Ford tell of his interest in the job in an interview with Walter Cronkite on CBS-TV were so mad they could barely talk.

At one point in the interview, Cronkite asked about the pride of a President accepting "a former President as vice president under

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KEYNOTER -Rep. Guy Vander Jagt addresses the convention.

AP photo

your terms as sort of a co-President?"

Ford replied that Reagan should consider that point, but he said the pride of neither he nor his wife, Betty, would be hurt if Ford returned to Washington "as No. 2 instead of No. 1."

Ford said he and his wife had been "around that city for a long time" and added, "I think we're big enough, we're self-assured enough that that problem won't affect us in any way whatsoever. But, the point you raise is a very legitimate one. We have a lot of friends in Washington."

At Bush's headquarters, Vic Gold, who had written the speech Bush delivered Wednesday night at the convention, stormed out of the room when Ford began talking about pride. "What does he know about pride?" Gold muttered.

Several Bush staff members, pointing to the presence of reporters in the room, tried to calm Gold, a feisty, one-time aide to former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew. "I'm speaking for me, not for you," Gold said to the other staff members. "Did you just hear that horse's ass?"

The final delegate count for Reagan's nomination was Reagan 1,939, Anderson, 37, George Bush, 13, former Ambassador to Great Britain Anne Armstrong, 1, and 4 delegates

abstaining.

Twenty-one holdout delegates from Illinois, nine from Massachusetts, six from Wisconsin and one from Washington voted for Anderson, who quit the Republican campaign and is running as an independent. Those votes drew of jeers.

Constitutional Problem

In both the CBS and ABC interviews, Ford said that he thought the 12th Amendment to the Constitution would be a problem if he decided to run with Reagan. The amendment would cost a Reagan-Ford ticket California's 45 electoral votes because it provides that when both candidates on a ticket are from the same state, that state's electoral votes cannot be counted in the election.

Ford previously had said it would be "a cheap political gimmick" for him to try to circumvent the amendment by moving his voting residence to Colorado or Michigan, where he has property. And Wednesday, on CBS, Ford said he would have "very grave reservations" about doing that because "it could create, in the minds of the American people, that we're trying to do something a little cute."

But Ford said Reagan staff lawyers had prepared a legal memo indicating it would be legal for him to make such a move.

"Technically, legally, I'm sure it's proper," Ford said. "But the press would raise questions about it. Voters might be concerned about it. So I keep saying, 'How do you answer that? You haven't answered that to my satisfaction adequately at the present time.'"

'Beat the Pants Off Carter'

Earlier, Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, in a rip-roaring nominating speech that signaled some of the themes Reagan will stress in the coming contest, hailed the nominee as a "man who will conduct the most aggressive and exciting political campaign in all of American political history and beat the pants off Jimmy Carter."

Laxalt, who was governor of Nevada when Reagan was California governor, said that, as one who had been in the political trenches with him for 16 years, "I have been privileged to have first-hand observation to the varied experience of this man and of his commitment to country."

In California, where Democrats



GETTING THE WORD -Ronald Reagan and family in hotel room just after the convention nominated him as GOP standard bearer. From

rear, son Mike and Mike's wife, Colleen, Reagan, son Ron and Mrs. Reagan. Shortly after, Reagan made an appearance at convention.

Times photo by Joe Kennedy

outnumbered Republicans by 3 to 2, Laxalt noted, Reagan was elected by a million-vote margin. "And unlike Jimmy Carter," the senator said, "he proved he can govern as well as he can campaign."

Laxalt rattled off a long list of accomplishments that he attributed to Reagan's California administration, including balancing the state's budget while increasing supplemental aid to the elderly, the blind and disabled and giving property tax relief to the elderly; increasing state support for schools 24 times as much as the increase in enrollment; making more minority appointments than any governor in history; and removing "welfare cheats" from the public rolls and then increasing welfare benefits to the "truly needy" by 43%.

In a slap at Carter, who brought a number of Georgians into his Administration at salaries higher than

they were receiving in non-government work, Laxalt said that Reagan "did not view his election as the chance to give each of his political cronies the best job they ever had. His policy was that he never appointed anyone to a high position in his administration who needed the job."

'Panama Canal Giveaway'

In addition, Laxalt labeled the Senate ratification of the Panama Canal treaties, which Carter advocated, as a "Panama Canal giveaway" that resulted from a "weak, ill-advised" decision. And he called Carter's recognition of the Peoples Republic of China the "Taiwan sell-out."

Bush, in an early evening speech to the convention, accused Carter of "fumbling, incompetent leadership," saying, "The Carter era of broken promises and unfulfilled commitments is drawing to a close.

"And the Reagan era of an America true to its promises of peace and prosperity is beginning," Bush said. "Our purpose is not to tear down Jimmy Carter. It is to offer hope and direction to all our countrymen."

Bush focused chiefly on the Republican nominee, painting a picture of peace and prosperity under a Reagan presidency.

"Under the leadership of Ronald Reagan," he said, "the strength of the American dollar will be restored, both here and overseas. The crushing burden of federal bureaucracy and the excess of regulation will be lifted from the back of America's free economy."

He said also that under such leadership the economy will flourish. Americans overseas will be able to count on their government to protect them and "a policy of peace-through-strength will assure that no power on earth, be it great or small, will miscalculate the resolve of the American people and its leaders."

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SET OF DEMONSTRATION -George Bush, foreground, waves as supporters parade on floor of convention before his speech.

Associated Press photo